

# Disaster Tips for People with Visual Disabilities

## Canes

- If you use a cane, keep extras in strategic, consistent and secured locations at work, home, school and volunteer site to help you maneuver around obstacles and hazards.
- Keep a spare cane in your emergency kit.

## Alternative mobility cues

- If you have some vision, place security lights in each room to light paths of travel. These lights plug into electric wall outlets and light up automatically if there is a loss of power. They will, depending on type, continue to operate automatically for 1 to 6 hours and can be turned off manually and used as a short-lasting flashlight.
- Store high-powered flashlights with wide beams and extra batteries.
- Plan for losing the auditory clues you usually rely on after a major disaster.
- Service animals may become confused, frightened or disoriented during and after a disaster. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed. A leash/harness is an important item for managing a nervous or upset animal. Be prepared to use alternative ways to negotiate your environment.

## Label supplies

- If helpful, mark emergency supplies with large print, fluorescent tape or Braille.

## **Secure computers**

- Anchor special equipment and large pieces of furniture such as computers and shelving. Create a computer back-up system for important data and store it off site.

## **Advocacy issues**

- Advocate that TV news not only post important phone numbers, but also announce them slowly and repeat them frequently for people who cannot read the screen.



**Washington State Department of Health**

**PO Box 47890**

**Olympia, WA 98504-7890**

**Web Site: [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)**

**360-236-4027**

**(800) 525-0127**